

Message Text

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11
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 IO-13 ACDA-10 /079 W
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O R 200925Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4303
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 5535

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR TU US GR CY
SUBJECT: HURRIYET PUBLISHES ALLEGED TRANSCRIPT OF ECEVIT-
KISSINGER CONVERSATION

REF: ANKARA 5529

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF ALLEGED TRANSCRIPT OF
TELEPHONE CONVERSATION JULY 20-21, 1974 BETWEEN THEN PRIMIN
ECEVIT AND SECRETARY KISSINGER. TRANSCRIPT PUBLISHED IN
HURRIYET JULY 20, 1976.

2. BEGIN TEXT

KISSINGER: THE GREEKS ARE THREATENING TO WITHDRAW FROM NATO.

ECEVIT: YES

KISSINGER: AND THEY ARE THREATENING TO CONTINUE TO SEND OUT
THEIR NAVAL FORCES.

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ECEVIT: YES, I UNDERSTAND.

KISSINGER: I BELIEVE THAT IF YOU GIVE ME TIME I CAN WORK OUT A CEASEFIRE.

ECEVIT: YES, MR. KISSINGER, IN PRINCIPLE WE CERTAINLY WANT TO AGREE TO A CEASEFIRE WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION. WE FEEL IT IS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT SUCH A RESOLUTION, AND I SHALL DISCUSS THIS SITUATION IMMEDIATELY WITH MY GOVERNMENT. I WILL LET YOU KNOW WHEN THE CEASEFIRE CAN BEGIN. IT CERTAINLY WON'T BE LONG.

KISSINGER: ALL RIGHT. CAN YOU GIVE ME AN IDEA OF HOW SOON THE DECISION CAN BE TAKEN?

ECEVIT: OH, I CERTAINLY MUST SPEAK WITH OUR MILITARY. I CAN LET YOU KNOW WITHIN AN HOUR. IS THAT ALL RIGHT?

KISSINGER: FINE.

ECEVIT: HAVE YOU WARNED THE GREEKS ABOUT THEIR NAVAL VESSELS THEY HAVE SENT TO CYPRUS AND THAT ARE NOW APPROACHING THE ISLAND?

KISSINGER: WE WARNED THEM AND THEY SAID THEY WOULD NOT ENTER THE WAR ZONE.

ECEVIT: BUT THE SHIPS ARE ALREADY IN THE WAR ZONE--WELL INTO IT.

KISSINGER: I WANT YOU NOT TO OPEN FIRE ON THEM.

ECEVIT: BUT MR. KISSINGER, LOOK: WITH THESE SHIPS THE GREEKS ARE BRINGING GREAT QUANTITIES OF MILITARY MATERIAL. THIS KIND OF A CEASEFIRE WILL BE MEANINGLESS. THIS IS THE CONCERN WE TRIED TO EXPLAIN TO MR. SISCO. WE CAN'T TRUST THE GREEKS. WE BELIEVE YOU ARE A FRIENDLY COUNTRY AND ONE THAT WILL KEEP ITS PROMISE. BUT THE GREEKS WE CAN'T TRUST. THEY SAY THEY ARE ACCEPTING THE CEASEFIRE, BUT AT THE SAME TIME THEY ARE THREATENING TO WITHDRAW FROM NATO. AND THEY ARE SENDING TO CYPRUS ELEVEN SHIPS FILLED WITH MILITARY SUPPLIES. WE CAN'T TAKE SERIOUSLY THEIR WORDS ABOUT A CEASEFIRE.

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KISSINGER: THE GREEKS DESIRE TO STOP THE FIGHTING AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK.

ECEVIT:...BUT...

KISSINGER:...TIME...

ECEVIT: LOOK, MR. KISSINGER, THE PROBLEM IS THIS: I THINK

THAT MR. SISCO HAS UNDERSTOOD THE DIFFICULTY IN THIS PROBLEM. THE GREEKS WANTED TO ENTER NEGOTIATIONS WITH US ON CYPRUS AT THE TIME WHEN THERE WAS IMBALANCE IN OUR FORCES. I, HOWEVER, SAID WE COULD NOT ACCEPT THIS. AND I BELIEVE MR. SISCO FOUND THIS TO BE LOGICAL. NOW MR. SISCO IS TELLING US, YOU ARE ALSO IN A PRETTY STRONG POSITION. THIS IS NOT ENTIRELY CORRECT. BUT WE HAVE DONE SOME THINGS WITHIN 48 HOURS. OUR REAL PROBLEM IS TO BE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE AND REACH AGREEMENT WITH THE GREEKS. BUT OUR EXPERIENCE SHOWS THAT THE GREEKS ONLY UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE OF FORCE, NOT OF LOGIC. IF THE GREEKS UNLOAD IN CYPRUS THE MILITARY MATERIAL ON THE ELEVEN SHIPS THEY WILL AGAIN BE STRONGER THERE. PERMIT ME TO SAY: THEY ARE NOT BEING HONEST WITH YOU.

KISSINGER: IF YOU SET A TIME FOR CEASEFIRE WE WILL TRY...

ECEVIT: BUT YOU SEE THAT...

KISSINGER:...FOR THOSE SHIPS...

ECEVIT: THE GREEKS WILL CONTINUE TO SEND THE SHIPS UNTIL WE TAKE DECISION.

KISSINGER: UNDER THE CONDITIONS OF CEASEFIRE...

ECEVIT: THEY WILL STILL SEND THEM. AS YOU SEE, WE WANT TO ACCEPT THE CEASEFIRE. BUT I WISH TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT WITH MY GOVERNMENT. BY THE TIME THE GOVERNMENT TAKES A DECISION, WHICH WILL BE IN LESS THAN AN HOUR, THE SHIPS WILL HAVE REACHED THE ISLAND. THIS IS THE PROBLEM. PERMIT ME TO SAY THAT THIS IS THE GAME THAT THE GREEKS ARE PLAYING. I AM SURE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND.

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KISSINGER: NOW I UNDERSTAND YOU. BUT I CANNOT ANSWER YOU BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER.

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ECEVIT: YES, IT COULD BE VERY LATE FOR THE SHIPS. BECAUSE THE SHIPS ARE WELL INSIDE THE WAR ZONE. OUR GENERAL STAFF HAS LONG ANNOUNCED THIS ZONE AS FIELD OF OPERATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE BRITISH ARE METICULOUSLY OBSERVING THIS. THE GREEKS DID NOT OBSERVE IT. THEY DID NOT RESPECT THIS EVEN WHEN THEY WERE WARNED BY AIRCRAFT. THE SHIPS ARE VERY CLOSE TO THE ISLAND. AT THE MOMENT THEY ARE SAYING THEY ARE READY FOR CEASEFIRE. IN THE MEANTIME THE MATERIAL IN THE SHIPS WILL BE ON THE ISLAND. FOR THIS REASON, MR. KISSINGER, I THINK IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE DO NOT SEPARATE THESE TWO PROBLEMS FROM EACH OTHER. ON THE ONE HAND WE HAVE THE SHIPS WHICH THE GREEKS WANT TO TURN INTO A FAIT ACCOMPLI AND ON THE OTHER HAND THE CEASEFIRE RESOLUTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND WHICH IS ALSO DESIRED BY YOU. WE WANT TO COMPLY WITH THIS RESOLUTION. I COULD INFORM YOU WITHIN AN HOUR WHEN, AT WHAT HOUR WE COULD BE READY FOR CEASEFIRE. I SHALL TRY TO INFORM YOU OF THE RESULT IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME.

KISSINGER: I SHALL IMMEDIATELY GET IN TOUCH WITH THE GREEKS AND WILL TELL THEM THAT...

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ECEVIT: YES...

KISSINGER:...TO STOP THEIR MOVEMENTS...UNTIL YOU GIVE US YOUR FINAL DECISION...

ECEVIT: YES, O.K. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. LOOK, MR. KISSINGER, SOME TIME AGO, SEVERAL HOURS AGO WE WANTED TO ASK THE GREEKS

THROUGH MR. SISCO, THEY...

KISSINGER:...

ECEVIT: I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND, I AM SORRY.

KISSINGER: THAT'S CORRECT, BUT COMMUNICATIONS ARE VERY BAD.
THAT IS WHY I CALLED YOU.

ECEVIT: YES, WHAT WE WANTED FROM THE GREEKS WAS THAT THEY TURN
BACK THEIR SHIPS AT ANY RATE TO GO BEHIND THE WAR AREA WHICH
THEY WERE REQUIRED NOT TO PASS. THUS, IT BECAME IMPOSSIBLE FOR
US TO ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR NOT TAKING ANY ACTION AGAINST THE

SHIPS. THEY HAVE LONG PASSED THE BORDER. THEY WERE WARNED,
ALTERNATIVES WERE SUGGESTED TO THEM. WHILE WE ARE TALKING AT THIS
MOMENT, IT MAY BE TOO LATE. I DON'T KNOW NOW. IN THIS WAY WE...

KISSINGER: WE COULD DO IT.

ECEVIT: THAT IS, IF IT'S NOT TOO LATE AND YOU ARE ABLE TO TURN
BACK THE GREEK SHIPS, IT WILL BE VERY GOOD FOR US.

KISSINGER: AFTER YOUR DECISION, MR. PRIME MINISTER.

ECEVIT: SIR?

KISSINGER: AFTER YOU TAKE THE DECISION.

ECEVIT: YES.

KISSINGER: GIVE ME A DEFINITE TIME.

ECEVIT: YES. YES. I WILL.
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KISSINGER: AND INFORM OUR AMBASSADOR OF THE DECISION AND ALSO
CONTACT ME DIRECTLY.

ECEVIT: WHERE CAN I FIND YOU, MR. KISSINGER? WHERE CAN I GET
YOU? ARE YOU IN WASHINGTON, AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT?

KISSINGER: I AM AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

ECEVIT: AT THE WHITE HOUSE?

KISSINGER: IT WILL BE BEST IF YOU TRY ME AT MY WHITE HOUSE
NUMBER.

ECEVIT: VERY WELL, MR. KISSINGER. THANK YOU. THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST.

KISSINGER: INFORM EM OF THE TIME IMMEDIATELY.

ECEVIT: I WILL INFORM YOU.

KISSINGER: AND MY BEST WISHES TO YOU.

ECEVIT: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. KISSINGER.

KISSINGER: WE ARE COMPELLED TO STOP IT. BECAUSE VERY SERIOUS THINGS COULD HAPPEN FOR ALL OF US.

ECEVIT: NATURALLY, I AM AWARE OF IT. ONE MOMENT. LET ME ASK THE FOREIGN MINISTER IF HE HAS ANYTHING TO SAY TO YOU. JUST A MOMENT.

TURAN GUNES (ADDRESSING ECEVIT): THEY ARE GIVING THE NEWS. THEY WILL BE BOMBED IN FIVE MINUTES.

ECEVIT: (TO KISSINGER IN ENGLISH) NO, NO, THE FOREIGN MINISTER IS ALSO SAYING THE SAME THING. AT THIS MOMENT, IT MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE. IF IT ISN'T TOO LATE WE SHALL TRY TO CHANGE IT, TO STOP IT.

KISSINGER: THANK YOU.

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ECEVIT: I TOO, MR. KISSINGER, GOOD-BYE. END TEXT.
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